

IN THE CLAIMS

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:  
first computers;  
a storage system comprising disks, a disk controller  
coupled to said disks, and ports communicatively coupled to  
said first computers; and  
a second computer communicatively coupled to said storage  
system,  
wherein said second computer is configured to:  
(a) receive a device assignment request for one of said  
first computers;  
(b) prepare a device in said storage system satisfying  
the received request;  
(c) set an access permission for an access from said one  
of said first computers to the prepared device by informing  
said storage system of an identification associated with said  
one of said first computers, based on the received device  
assignment request.

18. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to  
claim 17,

wherein said second computer is further configured to:

(d) inform said one of said first computers of an identification associated with said prepared device; and

wherein said one of said first computers is configured to:

(e) modify a setting of said one of said first computers to make possible to recognize said prepared device on the basis of the received identification.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 18, further comprising:

a switch coupled to said first computers, said storage system, and said second computer,

wherein said second computer is further configured to instruct said switch to modify zoning.

20. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 17,

wherein said second computer is configured to select a device satisfying the received request out of devices in said storage system to prepare a device for said one of said first computers.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer system according to claim 17,

wherein said second computer is configured to instruct said storage system to configure a new device satisfying the received request, in order to prepared a device for said one of said first computers.

22. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 17,

wherein said second computer is further configured to select a port via which said prepared device is accessed from said one of said first computers.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 17,

wherein said request received by said second computer includes a capacity of a required device.

24. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 18,

wherein said second computer is further configured to determine an identification associated with said prepared

device and inform said one of said first computers of the determined identification.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 18,

wherein said one of said first computers is configured to create a device file for said prepared device to use said prepared device.

26. (Previously Presented) A method in a computer system, wherein said computer system includes first computers; a storage system comprising disks, a disk controller coupled to said disks, and ports communicatively coupled to said first computers; and a second computer communicatively coupled to said storage system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a device assignment request for one of said first computers at said second computer;

(b) preparing a device in said storage system satisfying the received request at said second computer; and

(c) setting an access permission for an access from said one of said first computers to the prepared device by informing said storage system of an identification associated with said one of said first computers from said second

computer, based on the received device assignment request.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

(d) informing said one of said first computers of an identification associated with said prepared device from said second computer; and

(e) modifying a setting of said one of said first computers to make possible to recognize said prepared device on the basis of the received identification at said one of said first computers.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said computer system further comprises a switch coupled to said first computers, said storage system, and said second computer, and further comprising the step of instructing said switch to modify zoning from said second computer.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said step of preparing a device in said storage system comprises the step of selecting a device satisfying the received request out of devices in said storage system at said

second computer to prepare a device for said one of said first computers.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said step of preparing a device in said storage system comprises the step of instructing said storage system to configure a new device satisfying the received request from said second computer, in order to prepared a device for said one of said first computers.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of selecting a port via which said prepared device is accessed from said one of said first computers at said second computer.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said request received by said second computer includes a capacity of a required device.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of determining an identification associated with said prepared device at said second computer, and

wherein said second computer informs said one of said first computers of the determined identification.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said step of modifying a setting of said one of said first computers comprises the step of creating a device file for said prepared device to use said prepared device.